

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 224

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Reverend Melvin D.
Wade of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Reverend Melvin D. Wade; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Melvin D. Wade was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Brewster Theological Seminary, Reverend Melvin Wade held doctoral degrees in Christian counseling and ministry; and

WHEREAS, for forty-four years, Reverend Wade was the pastor of Christian Chapel Baptist Church in Memphis; he was the founder of the Christian Chapel Learning Center and Bus Charter Services; and

WHEREAS, an organizer of Chapter 1733 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Reverend Wade retired from Memphis City Schools after thirty years of service; and

WHEREAS, a noted political activist, Reverend Melvin Wade participated in the successful campaign of hundreds of elected officials both past and present; he was recognized by the Memphis City Council as one of seven Memphians who initiated the historic voting rights lawsuit that led to the election of Memphis's first black mayor and changed the city's political leadership; and

WHEREAS, a leader in his community, Reverend Melvin Wade was a volunteer chaplain with the Shelby County Sheriff's Department; he served on the Board of Directors of the

Tennessee Technology Center and the Tennessee Network of Child Care Providers, and he was the community liaison for Springdale Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, concerned for the welfare of others, he volunteered his time and energy after Hurricane Katrina, driving his chartered bus to New Orleans and picking up a group of people who returned with him to Memphis to begin new lives; and

WHEREAS, an active 33rd degree Mason and Shriner, Reverend Wade served as Grand Chaplain and was a Past Master and Secretary of Douglass Lodge 360; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Reverend Wade was a recipient of the Unsung Hero Award from Operation PUSH; he was also recognized for working with underprivileged children, and a portion of Hollywood Boulevard was renamed in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Wade was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Melvin Wade enjoyed the loving companionship of Geraldine Wade, his wife of forty-six years; he was the proud father of Melvin D. Wade, Jr., and Melanie (Ryan) Simpson, and the treasured grandfather of Ryan Simpson, Jr., and Melvin D. Wade III; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his brothers and sisters, Randy (Lynn) Wade, Curtis Wade, Shirley (Jay) Crutcher, Jackie (Percy) Day, Marilyn (Keith) Yarbough, and Carolyn (Nate) Henderson, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, as well as the Christian Chapel family; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Wade was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wade; his sister, Sharon Winfield; and his brother, Ralph Wade; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Melvin Wade leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Reverend Melvin D. Wade, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Reverend Wade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.